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**Spargo, John.** *The Common Sense of the Milk Question.* Pp. xiv, 351. Price, \$1.50. New York: Macmillan Company, 1908.

In his latest book Mr. Spargo undertakes to provide a statement of the milk problem that can be readily understood and appreciated by the man of average intelligence. He succeeds admirably and his work ought to prove extremely useful. The book takes up, in simple, popular fashion, the question of infant feeding. It points out the dangers of filth in milk and of milk-borne diseases, especially tuberculosis. The plain facts here rehearsed, without any attempt at sensationalism, will arrest the attention of every thoughtful reader and help him realize how great is our social responsibility for the ignorance and carelessness that bring about such a terrible slaughter of the children.

The second half of the book deals with the various methods of improvement and their remarkable results in saving child life. Mr. Spargo urges drastic inspection laws to stamp out tuberculosis, and favors invoking the federal authority for this purpose. He advocates municipal dairies to supply public institutions, with ultimate extension so as to provide milk for children outside. His final chapter outlines a comprehensive policy for securing good milk, with the following points: "Healthy herds—efficient inspection—insistence upon cleanliness and careful handling of the milk—municipal farms for the providing of public institutions, infant's milk depots for the sale of properly modified and pasteurized milk for babies, and education of the mothers and of the girls before they reach wifehood and motherhood." It is a reasonable, practical program, just as the book is a reasonable, practical book. A good index and a list of some of the best references add to its value.

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**Spears, J. R.** *A History of the United States Navy.* Pp. xii, 334. Price, \$1.50. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1908.

The greater part of this book is occupied in telling the story of our important naval battles, giving considerable attention to the "heroes" who commanded the American ships. In addition, there are brief chapters on the naval situation at the beginnings of our war and on the development of ships and guns in the old navy, the building of our present "White Squadron," and the naval development of the past ten years. Except in the opening chapter, which discusses the organization of our first navy, the question of administration is not considered.

The general thesis is that the United States has had peace when her navy was strong and well prepared and has had one war with imminent danger of others when our navy was neglected. On this basis, the natural plea for a larger navy, as a safeguard to peace, is made. Emphasis is laid on the foolishness of the policy of "peaceable coercion," which preceded

the war of 1812, and on the effects of "letting other nations experiment for us" during the quarter-century following the Civil War, when modern war vessels were being developed. The most radical feature of the book is a recommendation that the Naval Academy be made free to all who can pass its examination, in the hope of manning our ships with its graduates and creating an efficient naval reserve.

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**Urussov, Prince Serge D.** *Memoirs of a Russian Governor.* Translated by H. Rosenthal. Pp. 181. Price, \$1.50. New York: Harper & Bros., 1908.

Russia has always been a land shrouded in more or less mystery. We have heard of its government system almost entirely from the outside. It remains for Prince Serge Urussov to show us a view from the inside. Because of his experience as governor of the province of Bessarabia he is enabled to give an authentic sketch of the complex workings of the Russian government. Although a staunch patriot, he is not blind to the evils of the administration. The corruption and intrigues of officials, the schemes of the police department, the oppression of the Jews and the peasants are described with a surprising breadth and fairness of judgment.

The discussion of the relations of the Russian government with the Jews forms the most interesting and most important part of the "Memoirs." Prince Urussov became governor of Bessarabia soon after the massacre at Kishinef, he was present at the trial of the ringleaders, and it was due to him that the relations between the Jews and the other Kishinef inhabitants were amicably settled. Hence his discussion of the massacre and the whole Jewish situation has peculiar significance and weight. He shows how the Jews are oppressed, especially in the treatment of Jewish conscripts, in the detailed laws regulating their professions and providing where they shall live. The Jews are required to give a greater quota of men for the army than are the other Russian subjects. Russia makes no effort to educate the Jews. Along with the other oppressive measures are the heavy taxes. Most absurd was the basket tax, a tax levied on meat and fat. Butchers were compelled to separate them and thus reduce the value of merchandise. If all these measures were enforced, the fate of the Russian Jew would be indeed almost insupportable. But the ease with which the police can be bribed has made it possible to evade many of the troublesome laws.

Besides this discussion of the Jews, Prince Urussov says much about the provincial administration, and gives a rather amusing account of Kishinef society, its customs and habits. The "Memoirs" are written in an easy, natural style, and there are a few touches of humor. Because of the light it throws upon the inmost workings of the Russian government it is a book which everyone will read with interest. Mr. Rosenthal, the